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A meeting at the Law  
Academy of Phila. in  
memory of Laurence Lewis, Jr.

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The Law Academy  
of  
Philadelphia.

In Memory  
of  
Lawrence Lewis, Jr.

Secretary, 1878-'79,  
Member of the Argument Committee, 1879-'80,  
Successful Competitor  
for the Du Ponceau Medal, 1879.

[Printed by order of the Law Academy.]







Meeting in Memory  
of  
Lawrence Lewis, Jr.

At a meeting of the Law Academy, held October 29th, 1890, the death of Mr. Lawrence Lewis, Jr., was announced and the following note was directed to be entered on the Minutes:

Lawrence Lewis, Jr., was for years one of the active members of the Academy and served it as Secretary and as a member of its Argument Committee.

While still a law student he was the successful competitor for the Du Ponceau Medal contributing to the literature of the Academy his paper on "Original Land Titles in Philadelphia," which has attained the highest standing as an authority on the subject and has reflected credit upon the Academy.

By his faithful attendance on the meetings of the Academy, by his interest in all that pertained to its welfare and by his performance of his duties as counsel, Mr. Lewis not only manifested his keen appreciation of the functions of the Academy as a training school for the larger arena of our profession, but also presented to his fellow-members a high ideal, especially in the character of his arguments, which are still remembered as remarkable alike for thorough preparation, maturity of thought, and skill in logical and scientific presentation.

WHEREAS, The promise of those days was made good in later years and the example of such a character should be cherished and remembered:

*Resolved*, That this young life, so suddenly cut off, with so much accomplished, so much more assured, should not be permitted to pass unnoticed by those who best knew and can best judge it.



That it is fitting that the Law Academy record on its minutes the deep sense of loss and sorrow felt by its active and honorary members, who have assembled to pay tribute to the memory of one whom they held in such high esteem for his personal qualities, his splendid professional endowments and his services to this body to which so many of the Junior Bar owe allegiance.

That the Secretary be requested to transmit to the family of Mr. Lewis a copy of these Resolutions.

LUTHER E. HEWITT,	}	Committee.
LUCIUS S. LANDRETH,		
EDWARD P. ALLINSON,		
FRANK P. PRICHARD,		
ALBERT A. OUTERBRIDGE.		

Remarks of

LUCIUS S. LANDRETH, Esq.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen : In offering these resolutions, and rising to say a few words in support of them, my feelings are as near akin to pleasure as feelings can be on such an occasion. It was my privilege to know Mr. Lewis intimately ever since his early boyhood. For eight years we sat together as classmates in school and college, at the Episcopal Academy and the University of Pennsylvania. Our lessons, I remember with the greatest pleasure, were gone over and over together many a morning in college, and he was always the helper, not only to me but to others.

I think perhaps his strongest mental characteristic was visible then as it was always in after years, and that was an almost limitless capacity for application to any task or any study given him to do. He was gifted with a very fine mind naturally, and from his earliest boyhood he began

to train that mind until it arrived at such a perfection, so to speak, as is attained by the muscles of a trained athlete, capable of any exertion, no matter whether of sudden effort or constant endurance.

He seemed to regard his mind and moral nature as given to him in trust to do the very best he could with, and throughout his whole life, whether at school or during his reading for the bar, whatever he was given to do, nothing could prevent him from doing; nothing could prevent him from taking up that which was his duty to take up, and from pushing it to a conclusion to the very best of his ability.

He was not always interested in his work. No mortal can be. I remember his telling me once at college in our Junior year, that he took up "Todhunter's Mechanics" with a feeling of loathing, such as he would have had in touching a snake, but he took it up and kept on, as he went through life, "taking up" one thing after



another, agreeable or disagreeable, and all that he undertook he carried out magnificently.

He never failed from any lack of effort on his part in anything that he undertook. His sense of honor was perhaps another thing which led him to do good work, for he was sensitively honorable, and truth was his polar star. He had no sympathy with or excuse for unfair dealing in any shape, form or way; and added to this, one might suppose, somewhat severe character, there was a kindness of heart which the outside world perhaps might not have thoroughly appreciated because to it he was somewhat reserved, and perhaps only his friends—those who had the privilege of knowing him more closely—could fully see what a lovable and charming disposition he had. One of his acts of kindness, which I may mention, was to take away for several weeks in the summer a hard-working fellow-student at college, with whom he had no social affiliations whatever, at his own expense. He did many

other things of that sort. Whenever it came into his way to do a kindness he did it ; he was only too glad and too willing to give up to others.

I do not know whether I ought to touch upon his domestic life. It was so beautiful, both before and after his marriage, that it seems almost wrong for me to say anything about it. He was a devoted son to devoted parents ; he was a devoted husband and father to devoted wife and children. Six weeks ago there came into their sky a cloud of awful blackness. . But, sir, if I may use the beautiful old simile, I think that even that cloud has a silver lining. The record which he had made in his all too short life is one to which all his dear ones can refer with the greatest pride. It will be an inspiration to his children, and as they grow up, when they learn in after years, as they must, things that are being said now, and I am sure will continue to be said about Lawrence Lewis, Jr., they will feel a glow as they say to themselves, " That was my father."

Remarks of

FRANK P. PRICHARD:

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Law Academy: I was glad to learn that the Academy had decided to take some action in regard to the death of Lawrence Lewis. In common with many of the members of the Bar, he had come to feel that Bar meetings were but empty forms, and I presume it was largely on that account that no Bar meeting was held at the time of his death. It is not fitting, however, that such a life as that of Lawrence Lewis should drop out of this community without some public expression of regret, and it is eminently fitting that such expression should take place in this Academy, where he won his first intellectual triumphs in his chosen profession. We read every day eulogies, and deserved eulogies, on men who in spite of poverty and adverse circumstances have won wealth or power or fame, but is not a much higher meed of praise due to him, who without



the stimulus which poverty gives, trains and cultivates every talent which he possesses so that he is enabled to perform in this world the best work of which he is capable. Such a man was Lawrence Lewis. He was endowed by nature with a clear logical mind and a wonderfully accurate memory, but the superstructure which he reared on this basis was his own. Under circumstances which would have tempted many men to have led idle or careless lives, he without the spur of necessity, but inspired only by the inherent nobility of his own character, trod with constant zeal and unremitting labor the rugged path which leads to professional success. Nor was he actuated by a mere feverish desire for fame or success; he had the impulse which animates the true artist in every profession to make his work the complete embodiment of his highest ideals, and we, whose privilege it has been to watch his career, have seen him steadily rise to higher and higher planes of intellectual development.

What was true of his intellectual progress was true of his whole character. His life was a steady and gradual development of all that was best and purest and noblest in his nature, and the result was a character most interesting and most profitable to study.

He had not only the mental poise and the self-confidence without vanity, which come from a thorough intellectual training; but he had an integrity of purpose, an uprightness of action and purity of thought that made him everywhere respected, and beneath a quiet and reserved demeanor he had a wealth of feeling and affection, which made him fondly loved among those whose privilege it was to be intimate with him.

Were I asked to point out a character which should serve as an ideal to a young man entering the profession, I do not know where I could find one more complete and beautiful than that of Lawrence Lewis. His life was indeed unfinished, but unfinished only in the sense that he had not

reached the age which is supposed to be the allotted span of man's existence. No broken shaft should mark his grave, but rather the young tree, which, although it has not attained the full maturity of its growth, still in the stage of development which it has reached, is complete in its beauty of outline.

Words cannot express the value and influence of such a life. The loss which the community and the profession have suffered by his death cannot be estimated. We can render no better service to the rising generation than to cherish his memory and to perpetuate his fame.



Remarks of

BENJAMIN H. LOWRY, ESQ.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: I have felt regarding the character of Lawrence Lewis, that perhaps the greatest tribute to his real worth is in the fact that although his natural disposition, his bearing towards others were not such in his early career as to distinguish him as a popular man, when those who were associated with him came to know him and to realize his worth, his integrity, his entire honesty of thought and action, any possible seeming brusqueness of manner which may have appeared to characterize him in their early intercourse disappeared, and at his death everybody who had known him, who had been thrown into intercourse at all intimate with him, felt that the Bar and the community had sustained a great loss, and not only that, but they felt that they personally had sustained a loss which they could very feebly express in words.

Remarks of

HAMPTON L. CARSON, ESQ. :

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: It is not my purpose at this time to detain you by any extended remarks. I have promised at some future time to prepare a sketch of the life and the labors of Lawrence Lewis, Jr., which will but feebly express the high estimate that I had formed of the value of his professional work and of the affectionate regard with which I shall always hold him in remembrance.

I am here simply to pay the tribute of my respect, and to express my sense of the personal loss that I, in common with my brethren of the Bar, have sustained in this bereavement. But consolation mingles with our sorrow. "The living and the dead," said Mr. Binney, "are but one family; and the moral and the intellectual affluence of those who have gone before will remain to enrich posterity."

Lawrence Lewis has gone, his visible form has passed behind the veil; but his spotless character, his professional attainments, his varied accomplishments, his lofty standard of professional conduct, his scholarly essays, the richly ripened fruits of his indefatigable industry and toil will always remain with us as precious examples of the goodness and the greatness that can be united in the character of a young but perfect lawyer.



Remarks of

J. BAYARD HENRY, ESQ.:

Mr. President and Gentlemen : In the death of Lawrence Lewis, Jr., every member of the Junior Bar has lost one of the purest and noblest examples he could possibly have had. It was in this Academy we first met, and it was here that week after week we had our arguments ; it was here he learned to love the Academy and its exercises, and it is peculiarly fitting that the Academy should have taken this action, and that a meeting of this kind should have been held. Happening to glance over the records of the Academy this evening, not thinking for a moment there would be anything pertaining to Mr. Lewis, I found the minutes of the year 1878, all written out by him, in his peculiar, old-fashioned hieroglyphics which can never be mistaken. There they were, each one of those minutes, not only written out, but annotated and indexed, and on examining further, I found he was the first secretary to inaugurate

the system. That was just like him. He always would do things differently from others, and yet perfectly.

Mr. Lewis' whole aim in life, as has already been stated, was to do the best he could. The results testify to that. His essay which won the Du Ponceau Medal (the first time it had been given for many years) immediately ranked as an authority on original land titles in Philadelphia. All of his work was done in the same perfect manner. Every thought he had was, "How can I best serve my fellow-man?" I do not think he had the slightest hope of, or desire for, fame. I never heard him express a wish for an office, or for a position. In all our years together—ten years of active life—I never knew him to seek any preferment. Honors came to him, positions of trust were offered him, and he was just beginning to be sought after as a great lawyer, when he was taken from us. He was on the threshold of a brilliant career. He had gone through the

mazes, the difficulties, and the trials which you will find in your paths, had overcome them, and was just coming forth as a man whose opinions were highly valuable. He had a mature mind. In fact, he had the most mature mind of any young man at our Bar. His thoughts were the thoughts of a middle-aged man. Quick, nervous, energetic, active, he always seemed to be in motion, and yet he had the ability of being able to concentrate his thoughts on any subject in a marvelous manner. He could take a case of the most difficult character, and devoting himself to it, would soon be able to master all the details and state it in the clearest way possible; so clear that it was impossible to misunderstand it.

In everything he did he carried out that same principle. If asked wherein lay his great power I would say in his faculty of concentration and condensation.

His power of analysis was wonderful, and in all his work, no matter what it was, he would



bring to bear that faculty which made him, and was making him famous. His cases in the Supreme Court—and he had several—were splendidly prepared. His briefs were admirable. Nothing could have been added to them, and nothing could have been omitted from them. His work in the office was carried on with the greatest care. He was most careful in regard to those little things which many of us are so apt to pass over or omit. He loved a difficult problem or a difficult case as you and I would love a sport or a game, and nothing pleased him more than when some one would give him a hard, intricate brief to prepare, or matter to solve. We all hoped and felt and expected he would have been one of our leading men, not only in this city, not only in this Commonwealth, but in the United States.

In Washington he was as well known and as highly thought of as here in his native city. In the Court of Claims, counsel, when arguing difficult French Spoliation cases and having

questions put to them by the Court, would refer to Mr. Lewis for answers, a thing unknown before; and in the careful opinions of the Court, there were many extracts from Mr. Lewis' briefs. In those cases which involved a search through documents almost a hundred years old, he evinced that same degree of carefulness manifested in all his work. And whatever credit is due to counsel for having been successful in those famous cases, which have occupied the keenest minds of our country for nearly a century, belongs to Lawrence Lewis, Jr. His work in the Court of Claims alone would have constituted a life-work for an ordinary man, and yet he condensed it into the short space of three or four years.

When he passed away, those who knew him lost one of the truest, purest, noblest, best of friends. There can be no doubt about that. You have heard how generous he was, and it was always so. He made no special profession of being different from other men. He was a

straightforward, plain, frank, outspoken man. As has already been said here to-night, he had not at the first start in professional life those qualities which make men popular. He lacked what might be called magnetism, and yet as he grew in his profession, and as he mingled with men, that magnetism came to him, and his associates were growing to love him and did love him with an affection different from that which they bestow on most men with whom they come in contact.

And there was reason for that love, not only on account of his generous disposition, but because he was always fair; because he was always just, and because he never said a thing about a man unless it was deserved. And so those who were permitted to enter into his confidence and know him intimately could not help loving him.

What would have been his future none can tell. That his life was complete there can be no doubt. There was not a thing left unfinished.

Everything he had to do was done, as was ever the case, with him. No matter what might have been the condition of his health, no matter what might have been the obstacles in his way, he always did what he had to do, and what he set out to do ; and how well he did it, all know.

As years roll by, we shall look back and think of that bright, clever, sweet genius, who burst upon our vision for a few brief years and then went to join those who had lived many years and then only attained what he reached in few. When you refer to the American and English Railway Reports which he compiled, when you examine the Weekly Notes of Cases in the Supreme Court which received his greatest care, and when you come across other writings of his, you will find that keen, clear, logical mind of his running through them all. The loss of Mr. Lewis to this Bar and community, is the greatest it has sustained for many years. There have been other men who have lived their lives



and have gone in the fullness of time, but he was taken just at the outset, and yet, as has been said, no broken shaft should perpetuate his memory; his work was complete and finished when he left us. More I cannot say, more I dare not try to say; but this I can say—I loved him—and all who knew him loved him, and no man could come in close contact with him without loving him.

Remarks of

ALBERT A. OUTERBRIDGE, Esq.:

Mr. President and Gentlemen: It is well for us, the friends and associates of the man whose character we have just heard well indicated and partly described, to meet to compare notes and show our appreciation of our friend in this time-honored Law Academy, which he and all of us have been interested in. I wish to add my tribute to the memory of our friend, to express my sorrow at the loss not only of a friend but also of an associate in a certain line of my professional work.

Mr. Lewis' efforts and work on the "Weekly Notes" have been referred to, but no one knows as I do, as the editor of that law journal, the amount of thought and of time and the excellence of the judgment which Mr. Lewis put into that work. I am glad to state here also (what may be not generally known) that Mr. Lewis assisted me very materially in the preparation of the Pennsylvania

State Reports during the period when I was the State Reporter. Soon after I was appointed to that position, I looked about me among my friends for a counsellor and assistant, and I selected Mr. Lewis as a young man whose judgment was ripest, and who had that remarkable faculty, which is a splendid possession, of being able to *do good work quickly*. Time is an important element in mental as in mechanical work. A great many people can do good work. Some plod over it and work it out logically as they would demonstrate a problem in mathematics; others have an intuition, which is generally vague, and may be right, but is often wrong; Mr. Lewis had a lawyer's instinct, which seemed as though it were the result of unconscious logical cerebration. When he looked at a legal question, however complicated, his mind seemed to race through the various consecutive steps which lead to an intelligent judgment, which he struck almost instantly, and which subsequent

study generally confirmed. It was particularly in the preparation of the syllabi of cases that Mr. Lewis assisted me, that being the most difficult part of the work of law reporting. A very large portion of any merit which the reports that I have prepared may possess, is due to the careful revision and writing of the syllabi by Mr. Lewis of a large proportion of them. We would consult, sometimes we would differ, and in those little conflicts of opinion and of judgment it was that I became best acquainted with his remarkable powers which have been referred to to-night.

A characteristic of his nature was what I may call his unconscious self-respect. He had the purest and best quality of self-respect as a man, and yet he seemed perfectly unconscious of it. It showed itself, however, in many ways. That is a very fine quality to have born in one, or to acquire, an inherent self-respect which makes it impossible for the man to contemplate any other line of thought or action than that of true honor.



Mr. Lewis had that fine quality in the superlative degree.

I concur in every word which has been said here by Mr. Pritchard, Mr. Henry and others, and I with sadness concur in the Minutes to be entered on the records of this Academy to his memory as a tribute of our appreciation and affection.

Remarks of

C. BERKELEY TAYLOR, Esq.

Mr. President and Gentlemen : I only wish to say a word in regard to Mr. Lewis, and it seems to me this is a peculiarly appropriate place to say it. I have been his friend since we were boys together. I was at school with him and I labored here shoulder to shoulder with him in this Academy, and it is in regard to his work in this Academy that I wish to speak. He was here for several years active, earnest, debating constantly, and it was here that he first, it seems to me, developed those traits and qualities which would have eventually made him one of the leaders of our Bar. It was here I heard Mr. McMurtrie say that one of his earliest cases was argued as if he had been ten years at the Bar.

I think his mind was almost as thoroughly developed at that time as it was at the day of his death. He was always a very close thinker and he had a very wonderful power of analysis. He

served here in this body as the Secretary and for one or two years on the Argument Committee. He did more than that for this body ; he wrote an essay which received the Du Ponceau prize—a prize that had not been awarded for many years—and that essay, which he left behind him, I think will live as long as there are titles in the City of Philadelphia. I think that tribute itself is a reason why we all ought to gather here together in his memory.













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